

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAPE T 01023 221411Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 ACDA-12 OMB-01 /102 W
-----077958 221434Z /53

R 221517Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7325
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PDEV, SF, WA
SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: CHRIS BARNARD AND BBC DENY SWAPO BASES
EXIST IN NAMIBIA

REF: CAPE TOWN 937, CAPE TOWN 959,

1. ACCORDING TO LOCAL PRESS REPORTS, PROFESSOR CHRIS
BARNARD AND A BBC FILM TEAM UNDER J. HUMPHRIES VISITED
NORTHERN NAMIBIA FOR 48 HOURS MAY 19-21 AS GUESTS OF THE
SOUTH AFRICAN DEFENSE FORCE, AND CAME AWAY CONVINCED
THAT SWAPO DOES NOT HAVE BASES INSIDE THE TERRITORY.

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BARNARD WAS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT PER SANDEN, A SWEDISH
JOURNALIST WHO SAID RECENTLY THAT HE HAD VISITED SUCH
BASES (REFTELS), WAS "BLUFFED," AND "WAS PROBABLY
AS MUCH AS 30 KM. INSIDE ANGOLA WHEN HE SAW THE SWAPO
CAMPS." BARNARD REPORTEDLY SAID HE VISITED ALL THE
AREAS SANDEN CLAIMED TO HAVE BEEN TO AND SPOKE TO
LOCAL RESIDENTS, BUT FOUND NO EVIDENCE OF ANY BASES.

BARNARD ALSO REPORTEDLY TALKED WITH SWAPO PRISONERS CAPTURED DURING THE ANGOLA RAID AND SAID THEY WERE RECEIVING GOOD TREATMENT. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS REPORTS, THE BBC'S FILM WILL BE BROADCAST IN THE UK NEXT WEEK.

2. COMMENT: THE SAG APPEARS ANXIOUS TO REFUTE SWAPO'S CLAIM TO HAVE PERMANENT BASES INSIDE THE TERRITORY. WE DO NOT KNOW THE BACKGROUND OF THE BBC DECISION TO MAKE THE FOLLOWUP TO SANDEN'S FILM, BUT SUSPECT IT WAS SAG INITIATIVE WITH BARNARD THROWN IN AS ADDED ATTRACTION. NELSON

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: VISITS, MILITARY BASES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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